

TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON WATER COMMISSION

PO BOX 710
NORTH HAMPTON, NH 03862



Henry Fuller, Co-Chair
Bob Landman, Co-Chair
Tim Harned, Secretary
David Ciccalone
Jim Maggiore, Select Board Ex-officio

North Hampton Water Commission Meeting
October 15, 2021 at 1:00 PM
Town of North Hampton
Upstairs Conference Room
North Hampton NH

(DRAFT)

Commissioners in attendance:

Henry Fuller, Co-Chair
Robert Landman, Co-Chair
Tim Harned, Secretary
Jim Maggiore, Select Board Ex-officio
Guests: Justin Richardson, Mark Gearreald and Michael Tully

Mr. Landman called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM

Mr. Richardson proposed enlisting a rate consultant to assist North Hampton and Hampton's effort in the currently ongoing Aquarion rate case. Mr. Richardson has had preliminary discussions with Bion Ostrander who is a rate consultant who was highly recommended to Mr. Richardson by the New Hampshire Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA). Mr. Ostrander has previously done work for the OCA and testified before the Public Utilities Commission. Mr. Ostrander is available to support the Town's efforts. Mr. Richardson reviewed Mr. Ostrander's qualifications and a proposal to provide testimony Mr. Ostrander has provided.

Mr. Harned moved that the Board of Water Commissioners recommend to the North Hampton Select Board that Mr. Ostrander be hired to support the Town's effort, with a cost cap of \$21,700 total to be split 40%/60% between North Hampton (\$8680) and Hampton (\$13,020) and further, cost to be paid from the Water Commission account with the Select Board authorizing payment from Town funds if the Water Commission account does not have the full amount. Mr. Landman seconded the motion.

Mr. Harned moved to enter a non-public session to consider legal matters under RSA 91-A-3,II.(e) regarding the Aquarion Water Company's Request for a \$1.4 million Rate Increase and to consider legal advice concerning Mr. Ostrander's review of Aquarion's proposed rates. Mr. Landman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Harned moved to exit the non-public session. Mr. Landman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0.

No action or votes were taken during the non-public session.

Mr. Harned moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, III. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0.

The motion to hire Mr. Ostrander was discussed further. The consensus was that in the last rate case in 2012, the Towns hired a rate consultant who made recommendations which resulted in savings to customers of over \$500,000. The cost of hiring Mr. Ostrander is small relative to the benefits to the Towns and customers. The motion was approved unanimously, 4-0.

Mr. Landman adjourned the meeting without objection at 2:40 AM